

Money Monopoly vs. Single Tax.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—Brother W. H. T. Wakefield in his endeavor to expose my deficiencies as an opponent of a single-tax, has not succeeded in obscuring a tendency on his part to perversity. He assumes positions for me which a careful reading of my former communication would not warrant; but let that pass.

What interests most people who really desire a reformation, is to know what has a promise in it of bringing a reformation about. If, to my mind, the single-tax had in it such promise, it would receive no opposition from me, but I have seen the cat, Brother Wakefield to the contrary notwithstanding. I have also seen the fox, the jackal and the hyena, and I have also seen the principal instrument of their nefarious practices, and it is not land monopoly but the monopoly which makes land and all other monopolies possible.

Why, sir, the money monopoly may well afford to pay one for advocating the single-tax theory, from the fact that it not only serves to divert attention from the time from the operations of its piratical craft, but should it ever be brought about, such monopoly would alone be in position and reap the benefits. The fact that a moneyed oligarchy can pay out anywhere from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 billion dollars in this country annually and receive it right back again without having to part with anything as an equivalent, will effectually prevent legislation in the interest of the people or detrimental to its own interests until the people are aroused to attack the oligarchy itself.

But to the tax. We speak of taxing land, but in reality humanity is alone and inevitably the taxed. Land belongs to government originally, but is valueless to it until occupied by someone who can pay taxes, unless used by government itself, in which case there is no tax levied. When a tax is levied it must be met by a surrendering of either a portion of one's principal or a portion of one's income or products. To collect of the income or of the products and leave the principal intact, must meet the approval of every sane man, therefore, it is utter folly to talk of a method of taxation that shall "give to labor its entire product for its own use." One of two things is certain, either land must go to pay taxes or the products of labor must be surrendered for that purpose. If the land is surrendered, government must re-sell or gone is your basis for a single tax. If sold, the purchaser must pay subsequent taxes by products resulting from labor applied to the land, or the land must again be surrendered, and so on *ad infinitum*. Labor may and should escape the exactions of monopoly, but it may not and should not escape its share of the burden of all necessary taxation. It should interest itself in an effort to properly limit taxation, and equitably distribute the same among those justly the subjects of taxation. Its neglect of these lines in this country amounts to scarcely less than criminal folly.

"Unearned increment" is a favorite term with the single-taxers, an expression which has been made to do effective service in diverting attention from the money power. When the money power, having obtained possession of a line of railroad and the power to crush all opposition, proceeds to issue and sell stock to double or quadruple the original amount, the operation is too palpable to be accepted as natural, and is popularly dubbed as "watering the stock." But when such power causes a concentration of certain interests calculated to build up a city and assert itself to pre-

vent rival interests being build up, and being successful, proceeds to raise rents, the people are informed that such rise is the result of natural instead of artificial and enforced causes.

Now suppose the people get onto the workings and propose to remedy the matter by an application of the principle of the single-taxer. How long think you before it would have all its property classed by law as personal, represented by stocks, leaving the public with no means of ascertaining who owned them? Such is the case now with its railroads, including grounds, enormous warehouses and in some instances large farms and extensive coal fields. Then would not its revenues come under the head of incomes which are so difficult to ascertain and the taxes on which are so difficult to collect?

"Unearned increment" (?) would immediately disappear from the tax list unless such list included incomes. I need not follow this feature farther.

Another error of the single-taxer is entertaining the idea that the value of a city lies in the presence and labors of its collective inhabitants, whereas the value of a city is always and inevitably in proportion to its facilities for administering to the necessities, the desires and the aspirations of humanity. It is only the existence of such facilities in some degree that gives value to anything. It requires not only men but facilities to do with to give value to any locality. Were the presence of men with physical ability for work alone requisite to give value, Washington property should have gone up several per cent. on the encampment of Corey's army in its vicinity.

My respect for the single-taxer has been greatly restricted by his well-nigh universal slight of the office which money is filling in the operation of farming and perpetuating the gigantic monopolies which he is advocating the single-tax ostensibly to do away with. This slight is well exemplified by Brother Wakefield when he says: "The relation of money to wealth is precisely that of poker chips to the stakes being played for—a mere counter. It records acquisitions but does not make them."

The brother could not well be further from the truth. Less than 3 per cent of the transfers of property are recorded by a transfer of money. The principal office of money to-day is to lie, locked in the vault of the usurer, while courts proceed to transfer the property that has secured its previous exit from such vault. Who can deny this? The brother had been much nearer the facts had he stated: "The relation of money to wealth is precisely that of loaded dice to the stake being played for." Its office to-day is only ostensibly to record, while in reality it compels a transfer of property.

Now, my single-taxer, bend your ear down low and give close attention, jotting down in your memorandum, for future reference and reflection, a short dictation. Are you ready? Well, then, note first: The constitution of the United States confers on congress the absolute control of our circulating medium.

Have you got that? Well, note next: Appearances indicate that congress has farmed out that control to an oligarchy, and that congress and the national banker are acting simply as agents of said oligarchy.

You are ready again, are you? Well, next: Let us compel congress to resume its constitutional prerogative of controlling the money of the country.

Then, when the government controls money, government may be depended

on to put it out to the people; and whatever government pays it out for will belong to the government, that is, to all the people instead of to an oligarchy as now.

Now, note with earnest solicitation the cause to which you attribute so many evils is but an effect of the monopoly of money, on the reformation of which all other reform must continue to wait. Talk no longer to distract attention. Attack the parent evil. That settled, monopolies and the "unearned increment" will disappear and be known no more forever, or until the thousand years in which that old serpent, the devil, is to be chained, shall have come and passed away, at least. Now you may go and with the best wishes of Yours, A. F. ALLEN.

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[First published August 1, 1894.]

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution.

Substitute for Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 1 and 2

Be it resolved by the legislature of the state of Kansas: two-thirds of the members elected to each house thereof, concurring therein.

SECTION 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of the state of Kansas is hereby submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval, or rejection, namely: That section 1, article 5, of the constitution of the state of Kansas be amended so that the same shall read as follows: "Section 1. Every person of the age of 21 years and upwards belonging to the following classes, who shall have resided in Kansas six months next preceding any election, and in the township or ward in which she or he offers to vote, at least thirty days next preceding such election shall be deemed a qualified elector. First—Citizens of the United States. Second—Persons of foreign birth who have declared their intentions to become citizens of the United States conformable to the laws of the United States on the subject of naturalization."

SEC. 2. This proposition shall be submitted to the electors of this state at the general election of the representatives to the legislature in the year 1894, for their approval, or rejection; those voting in favor of this proposition shall have written or printed on their ballots "For the suffrage amendment to the constitution;" those voting against the said proposition shall have written or printed on their ballots "Against the suffrage amendment to the constitution;" said ballots shall be received and such vote taken, counted, canvassed and returns made thereof in the same manner and in all respects as provided for by law; as in the case of the election of representatives to the legislature.

SEC. 3. This resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above resolution originated in the senate January 16, 1893, and passed that body February 8, 1893.

PERCY DANIELS, President of Senate.

W. L. BROWN, Secretary of Senate.

Passed the house March 1, 1893.

GEORGE L. DOUGLASS, Speaker of House.

FRANK L. BROWN, Chief Clerk of House.

Approved March 6, 1893, 3:50 p. m.

L. D. LEWELLING, Governor.

STATE OF KANSAS,

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,

I, R. S. Osborn, secretary of state of the state of Kansas, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original enrolled resolution now on file in my office, and that the same took effect by publication in the statute book May 15, 1893.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed my official seal. Done at Topeka, Kan., this 26th day of July, A. D. 1894.

R. S. OSBORN, Secretary of State.